

Pontesford Rocks

It is not surprising to report that no new routes have been recorded at Pontesford Rocks since 1995.

The following two routes were both climbed before the appearance of the guide but unfortunately the details were not received in time for publication. Full details are now recorded here.

4a **Surplus Requirements-Not** 60 feet HVS 5a

Takes a line between *Eliminate G* and *Oak Tree Wall Direct*. Start at the upturned V, beneath the thin crack at 15 feet. Climb delicately through the overlap on small holds and avoiding use of large holds in the groove to the left. Gain the thin crack (runner) and then the small ledge. Step right onto the blank slab and move up to a large ledge. Move right for 10 feet to below an overlap in the centre of the slab, climb through this to gain easy ground leading to the terrace and a belay.

First Ascent: M.J.Hirst, J.S.Whitford 27/3/93.

19a **Vive La Wombat** 200 feet E2

Start at the base of the *Fifty Foot Wall*, between *Epiglottis* and *Varsity Buttress*, by a rock pedestal.

1) 130 feet. 4c/5a. Climb straight up the tower until good holds arrive at the top on the right. Continue straight up the rib to belay as for the second pitch of *Varsity Buttress*.

2) 70 feet. 5b. Start under the obvious large roof. Climb up the slab and make a long reach to a good in-cut hold on the edge of the overhang. Dynamic moves lead over the right hand side of the overhang. Finish direct to belay on the summit block. Exposed.

First Ascent: Sion Roberts solo 18/9/94 (a back rope was used on pitch 2).

Note: prior to the first ascent the first pitch had been soloed and the second pitch had been top roped.

Finally, details of an old route from 1969 have recently been made available:

21a **Lonesome Traveller** 180 feet VS

More continuous than other routes on this buttress. Start as for *East Climb*.

1) 40 feet. Move up a few feet then diagonally leftwards to ledge. Directly above this to the tree.

2) 60 feet. Climb the wall above at its left via a short groove to the overhang and then the rib above this.

3) 80 feet. Climb the slab at the left side of *The Nose*. Up the corner above (*The Canopy*) to join the finish of *Taylor's Crack* by a strenuous swing. Finish by *Varsity Buttress*.

First Ascent: John Harwood 14/4/69.